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TOHAK064

TO RALPH SIGLER FOR LARRY EAGLEBURGER - DELIVER IN SEALED ENVELOPE

TO: SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. I HAVE SPOKEN TO DOBRYNIN TWICE MORE ABOUT THE MATTER OF
POW'S HELD BY SYRIA. EACH TIME HE ASSURES ME THAT HE IS MAKING
OUR CONCERNS FULLY KNOWN IN MOSCOW, BUT I AS YET HAVE NO
RESPONSE CONFIRMING ANY ACTION TAKEN WITH THE SYRIANS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

2. I ALSO SPOKE WITH DOBRYNIN REGARDING THE PROCEDURAL
DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE (HAK021). IN RESPONSE TO MY
COMMENTS THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET BY THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE PROGRESS, HE SAID
PERHAPS SO BUT HE THOUGHT THAT YOU SHOULD DISCUSS IT WITH
GROMYKO AT GENEVA. HE SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD INDICATED
THAT THEY THOUGHT THAT THE US AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES
SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE BILATERAL MEETINGS, AT LEAST
IN THE INITIAL STAGES.

State Dept. review
completed

3. WITH REGARD TO THE FINANCING, HE SIMPLY SHRUGGED HIS
SHOULDERS AND SAID THAT IF THE UN REFUSED TO FINANCE THE CON-
FERENCE WE WOULD THEN HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE
BEST. LAUGHING, HE SAID THAT PERHAPS ISRAEL AND THE ARABS
SHOULD PAY THE BILL.

MORI/CDF C03342192

4. AS TO THE SOVIET PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFER-

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SECFL

PSN:007944

PAGE 01

TDR:347/18:59Z

DTG:131832Z DEC 73

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ENCE, DOBRYNIN SAID THAT WHILE THEY HAD FIRST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, THEY HAD NOW DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE AN AMBASSADOR, EITHER ONE IN THE CHARACTER OF OUR AMBASSADORS-AT-LARGE, THAT IS, ONE WHO DOES NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A POST, OR ONE OF THE AMBASSADORS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. HE SAYS GROMYKO ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE THE SUGGESTION FOR DINNER ON DECEMBER 17.

WARM REGARDS.

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PSN:007944 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:347/18:59Z DTG:131832Z DEC 73

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